



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent

Montana Office of Public Instruction
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MontCAS
Montana Comprehensive Assessment
System
May 2006 Newsletter

Test Coordinator Changes??

If you will not be the System Test Coordinator in the fall of 2006, please notify Judy Snow with information on who should receive test coordinator information during the summer. Information needed is name, email address, phone number, shipping address, and mailing address. Contact information for Judy is 404-444-3656 or jsnow@mt.gov



There's More to Assessment than Testing

Thank you to the enthusiastic presenters and participants for kicking off OPI's first statewide assessment conference. The turn-out, presentations, conversations, and response were outstanding. Thank you for your support in making this first assessment conference so successful.

Power point presentations from many of the sessions are online <http://www.opi.mt.gov/assessconf/present.html>

Statewide Student Information System

The OPI appreciates the calls and e-mails we have received regarding our Statewide Data Warehouse, Student Information System and Special Education Records Information System (DW/SIS/SERIMS) project.

We are currently in contract negotiations; however brief updates are available in the *Summary of OPI Activities* <http://www.opi.mt.gov/OPISummary/#Supt>.

Soon, in the Summary of OPI Activities, we plan on announcing an *OPI IT Project* web page that will contain project updates as well as other information that will help you keep your pulse on the project.

Please contact Dave Nagel at 406- 444-1641 or dnagel@mt.gov if you have questions concerning this project.

MontCAS Phase 1

Iowa Tests Administration for 2006-2007

- ✚ The administration of the Iowa Tests (the NRT), Phase 1 of MontCAS, will include all students in grades 4, 8, and 11 in the spring of 2007. The anticipated spring window is March 22-April 12, 2007. This administration is the last under the current contract with Riverside Publishing.
- ✚ There is no current information on the future of the Iowa Tests or an NRT in the Montana Comprehensive Assessment System (MontCAS).
- ✚ There will be no Iowa Test administration in the fall of 2006. The proposed rule change regarding testing a sample of students in the fall of 2006 was not adopted.

2006 Iowa Tests (NRT) Disaggregated Data Review

As scheduled annually, districts and schools will have the opportunity to review disaggregated data for the Iowa Tests before the data is released. Below is the timeline:

Week of June 12, 2006

- By mail, system authorized representatives receive user names and passwords and directions for accessing online secure data (directions will be included in the mail)



July 24 - August 4

- School districts review Iowa Tests disaggregated data on a secure online site
- School districts contact OPI if they have questions (contact information is below)

OPI Contacts

Mike Chapman mchapman@mt.gov OR 406-444-4527

Judy Snow jsnow@mt.gov OR 406-444-3656

MontCAS Phase 2

Modified CRT



In response to many calls, emails, and conversations with Montana educators since the No Child Left Behind Law was passed, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) applied for a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) to evaluate the feasibility of using a modified version of the Criterion-Referenced Test (CRT). The purpose of a modified version of the CRT is to expand the options to assess the performance of students with disabilities.

The Office of Public Instruction was awarded the grant and has begun planning with the CRT testing contractor, Measured Progress, to design a modified version of the CRT that may better meet the needs of some students with disabilities.

To examine the impact of a modified version of the test, efforts will be focused on the grade 4 Mathematics portion of the CRT. The performance of students with disabilities who took the regular grade 4 CRT in the spring of 2006 will be compared with their performance on a modified version of the test that they will take as grade 5 students in September of 2006.

Tentative dates for the preparation and pilot of the modified version of the CRT are:

Week of May 22, 2006	Test coordinators receive a memo with detailed information. The memo will be mailed by Measured Progress.
September 1, 2006	System Test Coordinators will receive testing materials from Measured Progress.
September 11 – 19, 2006	Testing Window for the pilot of the modified version of the CRT for grade 5 students.
September 25, 2006	Deadline for materials to be returned to Measured Progress



Please welcome Jake Goldsmith of Measured Progress. He replaces Susan Moore as the Montana CRT-Alternate program director. Jake's contact information is JGoldsmith@measuredprogress.org (800) 431-8901 x2239



June 2006 OPI Comparability Study

Testing Cycle Enrollment Count and CRT Demographic Data

In June, the Office of Public Instruction will conduct a comparability study between the student demographic data submitted to Measured Progress through bar code label data submission, answer documents, and data verification with the data submitted to OPI during the testing window enrollment counts. Due to a conflict with the MASBO conference, the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) has extended the deadlines for the Verification of School Enrollment Data by one week. Below is the information with the new dates.

1. During the week of **June 19**, the Office of Public Instruction will mail packets to all school districts with schools having a significant difference between the demographic data verified online with Measured Progress for the CRT and the enrollment data reported to OPI during the testing cycle. School districts without significant discrepancies will not receive packets.
2. District checklist for the week of **June 19**:
 - ✓ Please have someone check the district mail for a packet from OPI. If there is no packet, there are no schools in your district with a significant discrepancy.
 - ✓ If you receive a packet, please follow the directions in it for checking the discrepancy(s) and submitting corrections to OPI. The letter will contain a table with a number of CRT used student response booklets (this is the information you verified online at the Measured Progress site) and the ADC test enrollment data reported to OPI.
 - ✓ The deadline for submitting corrections to OPI is 5pm on **Friday, June 23**.



The packet will be mailed to the Authorized Representatives for your district; a copy will be sent to your district test coordinator. County superintendents will be notified of districts/schools in their counties that received discrepancy packets.

Standard Setting for the CRT and the CRT-Alternate

Thank you to all the Montana educators who have applied to participate in standard setting for the CRT-Alternate and the CRT. Confirmation letters are in the mail; we apologize that they were not sent sooner; however, as you know we have continued to need to recruit. And, Montana Educators are still needed to participate in some of the panels for the CRT-Alternate and the CRT.



- ❖ This important process recommends cut scores for the four Montana proficiency levels: novice, nearing proficiency, proficient, and advanced. It is a process based on statistical information and Montana educator expertise. The cut scores will be used in determining the annual measurable objectives (AMOs) for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).
- ❖ Participants will be reimbursed for mileage, lodging, and meals that are not provided during the sessions. In addition, each participant will receive a \$100 honorarium for each session and renewal units.
- ❖ All sessions will convene at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena
 - June 20-22 Session: CRT-Alternate, grades 3-8 and 10
 - June 21-22 Session: CRT, grades 4, 8, and 10
 - July 26-27 Session: CRT, grades 3, 5, 6, and 7
- ❖ The application site has been reopened only for the panels listed in the table that follows. To apply to participate in one of the panels, please go to this Measured Progress site:
<http://iservices.measuredprogress.org/>
 - Choose Montana
 - Choose Standard Setting
 - Read and scroll through the information letter
 - At the end of the letter is the link to the application form
- ❖ If you have questions, please contact:
Judy Snow, OPI
jsnow@mt.gov, 406-444-3656
Sharon Houle, Measured Progress, CRT
shoule@measuredprogress.org (800) 431-8901 x2186
Jake Goldsmith, Measured Progress, CRT-Alternate
JGoldsmith@measuredprogress.org (800) 431-8901 x2239

Standard Setting Panel Needs

Panel	Dates	Number Still Needed
CRT-Alternate, Grade 10 Math	June 20-22	12
CRT-Alternate, Grade 10 Reading	June 20-22	14
CRT-Alternate, Grade 7/8 Math	June 20-22	12
CRT-Alternate, Grade 7/8 Reading	June 20-22	12
CRT-Alternate, Grade 5/6 Math	June 20-22	8
CRT-Alternate, Grade 5/6 Reading	June 20-22	11
CRT-Alternate, Grade 3/4 Math	June 20-22	12
CRT-Alternate, Grade 3/4 Reading	June 20-22	11
CRT, Grade 10 Reading	June 21-22	4
CRT, Grade 8 Math	June 21-22	3
CRT, Grade 8 Reading	June 21-22	10
CRT, Grade 4 Math	June 21-22	1
CRT, Grade 4 Reading	June 21-22	7

Other News

NAEP Timeline

In odd-numbered years, a sample of Montana students is required to take the NAEP assessments in reading and math in grades 4 and 8. Donna O'Neill at the Office of Public Instruction is the NAEP coordinator and has prepared the following timeline. If you have questions, please contact Donna: 406-444-0793 OR doneill@mt.gov

Activity	Dates
OPI notified of Schools in the NAEP sample	May 1, 2006
Superintendents notified of schools in sample	May 31, 2006
Principals notified of their schools in NAEP sample	Early June 2006
Assessment dates added to school sample file Procedure (and sampled) added to school samples	Early June 2006
E-filing window for schools to submit student information	October 1-November 17, 2006
NAEP testing window	January 22-March 2, 2007

2006-2007 Proposed MontCAS Testing Windows

September 11-19, 2006	CRT Modified Pilot, Grade 5, Math
February 13 – March 29, 2007	CRT-Alternate, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math
March 6 – March 29, 2007	CRT, Grades 3-8 and 10, Reading and Math
March 22 – April 12, 2007	NRT, Grades 4, 8, and 11, Language Arts, Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science

Summer Vacation

Have a great summer!



Contact Information

Office of Public Instruction
Judy Snow, State Assessment Director
406-444-3656 jsnow@mt.gov